

Third, Secretary Daley will visit Northern Ireland in early June with a high-level U.S. business delegation to intensify what is already a substantial economic relationship. With peace holding firm, there are strong business opportunities we must pursue now to boost prosperity and the hope for the future that is crucial to the foundations of peace.

Fourth, USIA is supporting the collaboration of the Philadelphia Jobs Initiative with Worktrain, a Northern Ireland welfare-to-work initiative. I will meet with representatives of the two organizations during the U.S.-EU Summit in London.

Finally, I am pleased to announce a Vital Voices Conference to be held in Belfast in early fall, with cosponsorship from the United States and regional partners. This conference will showcase and support women's role in the economic and political life of their society. The women of Northern Ireland—wives, mothers, and daughters—have borne an enormous share of the trauma of The Troubles. Now, their participation will be essential to build a future of peace and reconciliation. I've asked the First Lady to travel to Belfast to take part in this important conference.

We have seen around the world how Americans have rallied to help the lands of their ancestors. I hope the Irish-American community will continue to support the voices of peace in Northern Ireland. My administration will continue to do all we can to foster hope and healing in Northern Ireland and to help its people build a new age of peace for their families and future generations.

### **Statement on Senate Action on Internal Revenue Service Reform Legislation**

*May 7, 1998*

I am very pleased that IRS reform took a major step forward today with bipartisan passage of the Senate bill. We've worked hard to give the American people an IRS that is fairer and more responsive to their needs and to support the many dedicated IRS employees who do want to serve them well.

We've made progress, and final passage of this reform bill will help our efforts to give Americans the modern, customer-friendly IRS they deserve.

Vice President Gore and Treasury Secretary Bob Rubin last year completed a top-to-bottom review of customer service at the IRS. This effort has launched a complete re-vamping of customer service at the IRS. IRS offices and phones are open longer, problem-solving days have been instituted, and independent citizen advocacy panels are being launched. I've also appointed a new kind of IRS Commissioner. Charles Rossotti is an experienced businessman who understands technology and understands customer service. Certainly, not every problem will be solved overnight, but our new Commissioner is committed to ongoing reform and to correcting problems when they arise.

The Senate bill, like the House bill, will provide Commissioner Rossotti the tools he needs to succeed, and it will expand taxpayer rights. The new personnel flexibility provisions will allow the IRS to bring in talent and expertise from the private sector. The bill provides taxpayers with a stronger Taxpayer Advocate. It also advances the important goal of expanding electronic filing of tax returns to make it easier for taxpayers.

I urge the House and Senate to act quickly and send me a bill to sign that expands taxpayer rights and moves us forward towards delivering an IRS the American people deserve. We will continue to work with the Congress on a bipartisan basis on a final bill that advances our shared goals, that avoids unintended benefits for noncompliant taxpayers, and that is consistent with our commitment to fiscal discipline.

### **Proclamation 7093—Mother's Day, 1998**

*May 7, 1998*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Mothers are the heart of our families and the soul of our society. They are the nurturers of life, our teachers, confidants, counselors, and lifelong friends. They believe in

our dreams and help us to achieve them. They help us develop the values, self-esteem, strength of character, and generosity of spirit we need to embrace the wider world beyond the family. Above all, mothers provide us with the blessing of their love.

While this special love between mother and child is unchanging, the challenges of motherhood are not. The role of women in our society has changed dramatically during the past century. Millions of American women today pursue full-time careers in addition to carrying out their duties as parents, balancing family, job, and community responsibilities. Whether they stay home with their children or become working mothers, mothers today care for their families and meet the new demands of our complex society with strength, courage, and quiet selflessness. On Mother's Day, let us honor all mothers—biological or adoptive, foster or stepmother—whose unconditional love has strengthened us and whose many gifts have graced our lives.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May each year as "Mother's Day" and requested the President to call for its appropriate observance.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 10, 1998, as Mother's Day. I urge all Americans to express their love, respect, and appreciation for the contributions mothers have made to all of us, and I call upon all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 11, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 12.

## **Remarks to the Arab American Institute Conference**

*May 7, 1998*

Thank you, Jim. To Elie Abboud and Fuad Ateyeh, all the members of the Arab American Institute, the National Arab American Business Association, Palestinian American Congress; to Prince Bandar and the members of the Diplomatic Corps—all of you, thank you for coming. My fellow Americans: I like getting advice from Jim Zogby's mother. [Laughter] And she has a remarkable read on the world. Her son, John, a renowned pollster, has nothing on her. In fact, I think her numbers are better than his for me sometimes. [Laughter] I also want to say a special word of appreciation to Jim for his advice over the years. He is a remarkable voice for calm and clarity, no matter how heated the issues. But I can tell you, he is one of the most forceful, intense, and brutally honest people who ever come to the White House to see me. And you should be proud of that.

I understand that I am the first sitting President to address an Arab-American conference. [Applause] Thank you. I see Congressman Moran in the audience; he came here so the Irish would not be alone at the podium. And I thank him for that. [Laughter]

I'm honored to be the first President, but I'm surprised, frankly, and also a little disappointed, because the Arab-American community has made an enormous contribution to this country with basic values that made us great: love of family and belief in hard work and personal responsibility, and a passionate devotion to education, which I hope we will see engulf every single ethnic group in America today.

I congratulate you on the way you have found your voice, on speaking out on a wide range of domestic issues and not just on the questions involving the Middle East. A record number of Arab-Americans are now running for and serving in public office, including the United States Congress. But even the newest Yemeni immigrants, once poor farmers, are now small-business owners, achieving their rightful share of the American dream.

I wanted to talk with you very briefly tonight about how we can work together at